



March 16, 2009

TO: Joint Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Senator Gayle Slossberg, co-chair  
Rep. James Spallone, co-chair

**Testimony in Opposition to HB 6375**

From Helen Higgins, Executive Director of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation:

I ask your support to oppose elimination of the Face of Connecticut Steering Committee, as proposed in HB 6375.

The Connecticut Trust is Connecticut's non-profit statewide preservation organization, established by Special Act of the Connecticut General Assembly in 1975 (SA 93-75). It is committed to protecting and nourishing the vitality of significant buildings and landscapes through grants, loans, on-site technical preservation assistance, educational programs and publications.

HB 6375 would eliminate the newly created Face of Connecticut Steering Committee, created by the CT General Assembly in 2008. Last year 95 legislators co-sponsored the bill that created the Face of Connecticut Steering Committee.

I urge you to not eliminate the Steering Committee before it has had the chance to demonstrate its effectiveness, especially as a vehicle for distributing funds to projects that protect farmland and open space, invest in village centers and brownfields mitigation. In fact, HB 6660, being heard in the Environment Committee today, proposes bond funds that will authorize bonds of the state for state grant programs for the purpose of historic preservation, brownfields remediation and farmland and open space preservation, and to require the Face of Connecticut Steering Committee to report on the goals and obstacles for such grant programs, create a grant program for mixed-use preservation, develop criteria for eligibility for smart growth funding and report on the status of various projects funded by the committee.